

## Missing Persons Facts

- Every day, 2,300 people are reported missing in the United States. That's one person every 30 seconds.
- Of the 900,000 people reported missing each year in the United States, 50,000 are above the age of 18.
- Half of missing adults are white, while 30 percent are black and 20 percent are Latino.
- People with drug and alcohol addiction, psychiatric problems and elderly citizens suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's make up the bulk of adult missing persons cases.
- Interestingly, and despite the enormous number of missing person reports filed each day, the mainstream media rarely covers kidnappings.
- It is a myth that one must wait any time frame before reporting a missing person. There is NO waiting period for reporting a missing person.
- **AMBER Alert:** "America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response" Alert is a nationally recognized program used by law enforcement to help find children under the most serious life threatening conditions. Utilizing all available technology during the critical period after a child/missing person has been abducted.

Information provided by:  
ehow.com, CT Clearing House, FBI Statistics.

## Did you know?

Did you know that if a loved one goes missing you do not have to wait 24 hours to file a report with the local or state police?

The law in Connecticut permits the immediate reporting of a missing person, regardless of whether they are an adult or a child.

Time is one thing we cannot recover!  
Don't delay - report!



It is well established that the first 24 hours after a person goes missing are **INVALUABLE** in a criminal investigation.

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*If you feel your rights as a crime victim have been violated or you have questions or concerns regarding victim rights please contact our office :*

**The Office  
Of The Victim Advocate**  
1-860-550-6632

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## State of Connecticut

*Missing Persons  
Time is of the essence!*





## About the OVA

The Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) was established as an independent state agency to protect and promote the legal rights of crime victims in Connecticut.

Among its many responsibilities, the OVA provides oversight and advocacy when the criminal justice system fails crime victims.

The OVA may receive and review complaints of persons concerning the actions of any state or other entity providing services to crime victims. When appropriate, the OVA, may initiate an investigation into the circumstances of a complaint.

The Victim Advocate is authorized by law to file a limited special appearance in any court proceeding for the purpose of advocating for a victim when certain rights have been violated.

In addition, the OVA conducts programs of public education, undertakes legislative advocacy and recommends changes in state policies concerning the treatment and protection of crime victims, including changes in the system of providing direct services to victims.

## A Message from The State Victim Advocate



Michelle S. Cruz, Esq.  
CT State Victim Advocate

*A missing person by definition is any person who is reported missing to a law enforcement unit; until the person is located or determined to be a voluntarily missing adult. It also includes any child who is missing voluntarily or involuntarily, or under circumstances not conforming to his or her ordinary habits or behavior and who may be in need of assistance.*

*Per CGS Sec.46b-120.*

When a loved one has gone missing, many times the family and friends left behind struggle with what to do. Some wonder whether they should file a missing persons report with the police department. While others who have filed a missing person report with local authorities, feel they are not being taken seriously. This is especially true in cases of missing teenagers and adults. Here's what we know:

- Each day there are over 100,000 active Missing Persons Cases.
- It is essential to a successful recovery of a missing person, that evidence, DNA, videos (from stores, parking lots, etc) are captured in the first 24 hours after a person has gone missing.
- You don't have to wait 24 hours to report a missing person (this includes teenagers, adults and children).
- You, as a family member or close friend, KNOW your loved ones patterns and behaviors – so trust your gut! If you believe you're loved one is in danger and cannot be located, file a missing persons report.
- When filing a Missing Persons Report, bring a friend or family member who is calm and assertive (if possible) and can speak for you. They should take notes of who you're speaking with and their contact information. Follow up with them.
- As of October 1, 2011, the police shall accept a report of a missing person, regardless of age. P.A. 11-102.
- As of October 1, 2001, the Police Officers Standards and Training Council are required to have created policies and guidelines for what information shall be gathered when accepting a Missing Persons Report and what steps must be taken to investigate a reported missing person. P.A. 11-102. Therefore, when reporting a missing loved one to the police, request a copy of the reporting police department's policies and procedures for accepting a report of a missing person and for the Department's subsequent investigation of the missing person.

If you need help, contact the Office of the Victim Advocate, visit us at [www.ct.gov/ova](http://www.ct.gov/ova) or call us at (860) 550-6632.